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16 April 1964

1. The following are the IDEALIST reservations of droppable fuel tanks on the U-2:

a. The political implications of two U-2 drop tanks landing on someone or something, either land or water, coupled with all the implied overt acts of war of an airplane dropping bombs, germs, etc.

b. The cost versus the limited range gained by these tanks (total cost per tank dropped [ ] per first fifty sets, then [ ] after the first fifty).

25X1

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c. The increased possibility of a tank hanging and/or other mechanical failures which would be cause for an abort of an operational mission.

d. Also some doubt as to whether or not pylon stub will cost as much (in fuel consumption) as empty slipper tanks.

25X1

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